

S E C R E T

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

18F-50501

Copy to:

Report of:

Date:

File Number:

JOSEPH A. KOMMER

7/15/60

New York 105-40430

Office: New York, New York

Bureau 105-86201

Title:

NODAR SHALVOVICH MAISURADZE

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis:

Subject arrived US, 3/17/60, aboard Sabena Belgian World Airlines Chartered Flight with members of Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble. Subject maintained residence at Hotel Governor Clinton, NYC. Subject travelled with ensemble in Canada and returned to US, St. Albans, Vermont on 5/19/60 and departed US on 6/1/60 with ensemble aboard Aeronaves de Mexico Airlines en route Mexico. Subject identified as suspected intelligence agent with Georgian Dance Ensemble while in Italy, July, 1958. Activities of subject in NYC set forth.

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FOR COORDINATION ^{ed} WITHFBI

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3b2b
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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DETAILS

Arrival

The records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 20 West Broadway, New York City, as made available on March 24, 1960, reflect that the subject arrived in the United States on March 17, 1960, aboard Sabena Belgian World Airlines Chartered Flight at New York International Airport in the company of other members of the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble. The subject was travelling on an H-1 Visa and USSR Passport Number 192956, and was admitted into the United States until May 9, 1960. The subject indicated his destination in the United States as: Hotel Governor Clinton, New York City.

The above records further reflect that the subject, accompanied by other members of the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble, re-entered the United States on May 19, 1960, aboard Central Vermont Railroad Number 20 at St. Albans, Vermont.

Departure

The records of INS, New York City, reflect that subject and members of Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble departed the United States on June 1, 1960, aboard Aeronaivas de Mexico Airlines Flight Number 401 at New York International Airport, en route to Mexico, D.F.

The Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble arrived in the United States on March 17, 1960, and toured the United States and Canada under the sponsorship of SOL HUROK, Impresario, Hurok Artists, Inc., 1730 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The ensemble departed the United States on June 1, 1960, en route to Mexico, D.F.

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Residence

NY T-1 advised on March 16, 1960, that the subject, along with the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble, would give performances in New York City between the period March 20 through March 31, 1960, and while in New York City would maintain residence at the Hotel Governor Clinton, 31st Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City.

JOSEPH WOODS, Executive Assistant Manager at the Hotel Governor Clinton, advised on March 18, 1960, that the subject was to occupy Room Number 1629 with GEORGI I. ASATIANI, a member of the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble, during his stay at the hotel, March 17 through April 4, 1960.

Employment

The United States Department of State, by communication dated February 20, 1960, furnished a list of 64 Soviets comprising the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble, which was to visit the United States under the auspices of Hurok Artists, Inc., New York City. This list set forth the following information concerning the subject:

NODAR SHALVOVICH MAISURADZE, Georgian SSR, Ministry of Culture employee, born August 9, 1924, Khashuri (Georgian SSR).

Activities

NY T-2, another government agency which conducts security investigations, in March, 1960, advised that NODAR MAISURADZE was Security Man for the Georgian Ballet Troupe which toured Italy during June, 1958. MAISURADZE reportedly was observed exchanging small packages with persons visiting the troupe. It was believed that there were intelligence connotations to his activities.

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On March 29, 1960, NY T-3 advised that IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI, employee of Allied Design, 117 Liberty Street, New York City, had attended several performances of the Soviet Georgian Ensemble and had met with several members of the ensemble. The informant advised that IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI, while talking with a group of dancers, met with the subject and was informed that the subject had a letter for him from his daughter in Russia. The informant stated that when the subject gave IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI the letter he said to MENTESHASHVILI "I bring greetings from Mikhail Semenovich". The subject, according to the informant, began questioning MENTESHASHVILI as to the reasons why he (MENTESHASHVILI) had come to America and the reasons why he had not contacted the Soviets in England. The informant stated that the subject then asked IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI if he would be willing to work for the Soviets in the United States. The informant stated that MENTESHASHVILI indicated to the subject that he wished to think this matter over and would give him an answer on the following day.

NY T-3 advised that MIKHAIL SEMENOVICH (LMU), a Soviet national, was IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI's intelligence superior in England when IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI was working on behalf of the Soviets in that country.

On March 30, 1960, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (SAs of the FBI) observed the subject at 5:28 p.m. on the southwest corner of Sixth Avenue and 31st Street, New York City, where he met and shook hands with IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI. At 5:29 p.m. the subject and MENTESHASHVILI were observed walking south on Sixth Avenue and were last observed continuing walking south on Sixth Avenue at 29th Street at 5:31 p.m.

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NY T-3 advised on March 31, 1960, that IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI met with the subject at 5:30 p.m. on March 30, 1960, on the corner of Sixth Avenue and 31st Street, New York City. The informant advised that MENTESHASHVILI and the subject walked south on Sixth Avenue, where they eventually entered a bar and conversed for approximately two hours. The informant stated that MENTESHASHVILI and the subject conversed for a period of time concerning the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble and related matters. According to the informant, the subject eventually began to question MENTESHASHVILI as to the reasons why he left England without notifying the Soviets and why he had travelled to the United States. The informant stated that the subject remarked to MENTESHASHVILI "be sure you are telling me the truth as I don't want to be tried". According to the informant, MENTESHASHVILI advised the subject that he desired to come to the United States for the economic advantages and the fact that he (MENTESHASHVILI) was fearful that should he not go to Paris, France, as he had been requested by the Soviets, reprisals would be taken against his family in Georgia.

NY T-3 advised that MENTESHASHVILI told the subject that his present wife is not aware of his associations with the Soviets and as she desired to come to the United States he did not wish to upset her by going to Paris, France. MENTESHASHVILI stated to the subject, according to the informant, that he came to the United States without notifying the Soviets out of fear that harm would come to his family and that once he had settled in the United States he intended to advise the Soviets of his presence in this country.

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NY T-3 stated that the subject once again asked IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI if he would be willing to work for the Soviets in the United States. The informant stated that MENTESHASHVILI agreed to work for the Soviets and stated to the subject that he wished to repay the Soviets for his actions during World War II and so his family still in Georgia would not be mistreated. The informant advised that MENTESHASHVILI indicated to the subject that to insure his family's safety in Georgia he desired to do something important for the Soviets so that they would readily see his sincerity in his actions for them.

NY T-3 stated that the subject questioned MENTESHASHVILI obtaining the type of work MENTESHASHVILI was doing and his business and home addresses and telephone numbers. According to the informant, the subject advised MENTESHASHVILI that he would give this information, furnished by MENTESHASHVILI, to the "Embassy people" and that if they desired to see MENTESHASHVILI before the subject returned to New York City they would contact him. However, if MENTESHASHVILI was not contacted by any Soviets during the time the subject was out of New York City, MENTESHASHVILI was to contact the subject at the Hotel Governor Clinton upon subject's return to this city.

On May 31, 1960, NY T-1 advised that the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble would depart New York City on Aeronaves de Mexico Airlines from New York International Airport on June 1, 1960, en route to Mexico City, Mexico, D.F. The informant stated that the ensemble was tentatively scheduled to tour in Mexico City for two weeks and that plans had almost been finalized for the ensemble to spend two weeks in Cuba. After this tour in Cuba, the ensemble would return to New York City for a four hour stopover en route to the Soviet Union. The informant stated that at no time during the ensemble's tour of the United States or Canada did he notice any unusual activities on the part of the subject.

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On May 31, 1960, NY T-3 advised that DRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI met the subject at 12:00 noon on May 29, 1960, at the Hotel Governor Clinton, New York City. The informant stated that MENTESHASHVILI informed the subject that he had not as yet received any telephone calls nor had he been contacted by any of "their people" since the subject's departure from the city. According to the informant the subject had MENTESHASHVILI select a name and advised MENTESHASHVILI that he would receive a letter signed by this name at his home address. After three days following the date of this letter he (MENTESHASHVILI) should go to the corner of 33rd Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City at 5:30 p.m., where he would be met. If MENTESHASHVILI should not receive a letter, he should, however, go to the corner of 33rd Street and Seventh Avenue, New York City, at 5:30 p.m. on the 30th day of each even month until such time as he is met. The informant stated that the subject informed MENTESHASHVILI that if he was not met on the first two occasions he could continue to go to this area.

The informant stated that the subject furnished the following recognition signal to MENTESHASHVILI. The person approaching MENTESHASHVILI would ask in English "Do you know any Italian restaurants around here?" MENTESHASHVILI was to reply "I lived in Italy for a long time and know good Italian food."

The informant stated that the subject requested several photographs of DRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI so any individual could utilize same for identification on any approach.

On June 1, 1960, NY T-3 advised that MENTESHASHVILI visited with the subject at the Hotel Governor Clinton for approximately a half hour at which

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time MENTESHASHVILI furnished the subject with photographs of himself and thereafter talked with the subject and other members of the dance ensemble in the lobby of the hotel.

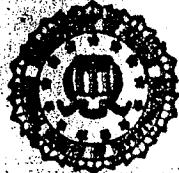
The informant stated that the subject told IRAKLI MENTESHASHVILI that the matter concerning MENTESHASHVILI was closed as far as he himself was concerned and that MENTESHASHVILI would now have to wait to be contacted by someone else in the near future.

On June 1, 1960, SAs of the FBI observed the subject depart the Hotel Governor Clinton with other members of the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble and enter a Carey Bus Number 340. This bus proceeded directly to International Airport, Queens, New York. At 10:15 a.m. the subject and ensemble departed Carey Bus Number 340 and entered the lounge of Aerovias de Mexico Airlines located at International Airport. At 1:00 p.m. subject and ensemble were observed boarding Aerovias de Mexico Chartered Flight which departed New York International Airport at 1:10 p.m. en route to Mexico City, Mexico, D.F.

Miscellaneous

On April 8, 1960, a photograph of the subject was exhibited to PETR S. DERJABIN, a self-admitted former Soviet intelligence officer. DERJABIN stated that he did not recognize the photograph or name of the subject.

On June 3, 1960, NY T-4 advised that the Soviet Georgian Dance Ensemble, which was now in Mexico, planned to return to New York City during the middle of July, 1960. The informant stated that from Mexico, the ensemble was scheduled to go to Cuba during the third week of June as guests of the Cuban Government. The informant stated that the ensemble upon its return to New York City would enplane for the Soviet Union.



CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

July 15, 1960

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. [redacted]

Re: Nodar Shalvovich Maisuradze
Internal Security - R

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Joseph A. Bender, dated and captioned as above at New York.

The informants designated as NY T-1, NY T-3 and NY T-4, in above-referenced report, are all characterized as having furnished reliable information in the past.

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